



June 5, 2012

The Honorable John Walsh

Chairman, House Judiciary Committee

Michigan House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Walsh and Honorable Judiciary Committee Members:

Please consider this as an expression of full support for SB 1082 as sponsored by Senator Hildenbrand, by our over 3,000 independent retailers across Michigan who are members of the AFPD-Associated Food and Petroleum Dealers.

SB 1082 is a strong piece of legislation offering a tool for law enforcement in the effort to ban the very harmful synthetic marijuana substances marketed under a host of names, including K-2, spice and bath salts. These synthetic compounds are currently legal, lethal and available in far too many gas stations and convenience stores in Michigan, despite the fact that the AFPD has advised, educated and instructed retailers of their dangers. While the vast majority of retail store owners "get it" and refuse to sell these destructive products, some do not.

The fact that manufacturers are finding ways around current law, by manufacturing variations of the original K-2 substance –makes passage of SB 1082 an absolute necessity. Simply put, we cannot afford to lose another child or family member to these toxic and potentially lethal substances. This is also why the AFPD is asking the public to report ANY store selling any form of synthetic marijuana substances to our AFPD offices at 1 800-666-6233.

It matters not whether any of these retail stores are currently AFPD members. We are asking all members and non-members to STOP selling these substances immediately. Our members run family owned businesses and the affect these drugs have on our community is unacceptable. Should any member of the public see a store owner selling this product, please contact the AFPD at 1-800 666-6233, and we will meet with him or her to insist the product be removed immediately.



Finally, passage of SB 1082 is a strong start in the effort to ban the harmful substances from all retail shelves, and to protect the citizens we all serve.

Respectfully,

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CEO & President, AFPD

Paul Condino

VP of Government Relations, AFPD